



## *Morgantown Police Department*

300 SPRUCE STREET  
MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA 26505  
(304) 284-7522  
[www.morgantownwv.gov](http://www.morgantownwv.gov)



**NEWS RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release

January 27, 2015

### **“UPDATE”**

At approximately 11:52 pm on November 12, 2014, Officers of the Morgantown Police Department responded to 200 Belmar Avenue for an unknown medical emergency. When the first officer arrived he found an individual performing Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on an 18 year old male that was on the floor without any pulse or respiration. The officer continued to perform CPR until the arrival of Emergency Medical Personnel who took over life sustaining first aid. The victim was transported to Ruby Memorial Hospital where he later died.

The victim, Nolan Michael BURCH, 18 years of age of Buffalo New York, was a pledge for the Kappa Sigma Fraternity located at 200 Belmar Avenue at the time of this incident.

Detectives of the Morgantown Police Department initiated an investigation into the circumstance of this incident. Detectives conducted dozens of interviews and reviewed footage from a number of security cameras. Following the review of all of the interviews, video footage, review of cell phone evidence and other investigative procedures, the investigation is currently under review by the Monongalia County Prosecutors Office. The Medical Examiners report is still pending. A determination of criminal charges will be made following the final review by the Prosecutors Office.

The investigation has revealed that Nolan BURCH along with 19 other fraternity pledges were summoned to 200 Belmar Avenue to participate in an initiation function referred to as “Big-Little”. BURCH along with the other pledges were taken into a room in the fraternity, blindfolded and then led to another location at 305 Glendon Street by fraternity members.

BURCH along with the other pledges were presented to the “Big”, a senior member or alumnus of Kappa Sigma, and presented a bottle of liquor. During this time frame BURCH consumed a large quantity of alcohol.

BURCH was later taken back to 200 Belmar Avenue due to his very high level of intoxication and was laid on a table. At approximately 11:50 pm another member of Kappa Sigma observed that BURCH’s face had a blue coloration to it and tried to wake him. This is when BURCH was found to be without a pulse and CPR was initiated along with a call being made to 911.

Medical tests performed on BURCH following the incident revealed that his Blood Alcohol level was 0.493.

The Morgantown Police Department is committed to its goal of eliminating criminal activity in our city. Citizens are encouraged to become a **“Partner in Policing”**, by reporting suspected criminal activity to Morgantown Police Department Switchboard at (304) 284-7522. If you need immediate Police attention or a crime is in progress call 911.

Authority  
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Chief of Police